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MEDIA RELEASE
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LATA CONVICTED OF BANK ROBBERY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Federal Bureau of Investigation Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Jay Fallon and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan announced today that a federal jury in Concord, NH convicted James T. Lata, Sr. age 61, of robbing the Citizens Bank, One Trafalgar Square, Nashua on November 12, 2002. The trial began on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 and ended today when the jury returned its verdict at 2:30 p.m. after approximately 90 minutes of deliberation.

Mr. Lata was indicted in December 2003 for the robbery. On November 12, 2002, a white male entered the Citizens Bank at Trafalgar Square and demanded that the tellers fill a bag provided by the defendant with money. The robber wore a black cap, had a dark mustache, and a bandaid across the bridge of his nose. Approximately \$16,489 was taken in the robbery. The defendant, whose image was captured on bank surveillance cameras, was later discovered in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Clothing and two bags used during the robbery were recovered from the defendant's van and hotel room.

Judge Joseph DiClerico ordered sentencing to be held on August 2, 2004 at 10:00 am. The defendant has been detained since his first appearance on the federal charge. The defendant faces a maximum twenty year sentence.

In commenting on the verdict, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "The diligent cooperative investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nashua Police Department is the reason why Mr. Lata has been brought to justice. It speaks highly of the professionalism, skills, and determination that these agencies bring to every case."

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Nashua Police Department as well as the assistance of the Ocean Springs, Mississippi Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Clyde R.W. Garrigan and Joseph N. Laplante.